

did not confirm this impression; but on the second he found small wasps and a dipterous insect busy with the dandelions, and flying from one to another, and also ants in abundance. It was clear that the narrowness of the style-branches in this and other liguliflorous compositæ gave them a chance for self-fertilization, but their characters were equally good for crossing through insect agency. As to ox-eye daisy, he could not confirm Mr. Meehan's description as to the carrying up of the anthers upon the style, which must have been abnormal. Dr. Gray supposed that the arrangement would be found to be like that of the allied Feverfew, which was well figured by Lubbock, after Ogle, and this clearly betokened cross-fertilization. About Cambridge, ox-eye daisies were so infested with small insects that ladies objected to having them brought into the house among cut flowers; and flying insects, he thought, did not disdain them.

As to the benefit of cross-fertilization, this was a large subject, which could not be disposed of in a few words; but Dr. Gray thought it probable that cross-breeding even of flowers in the same inflorescence was better than self-fertilization, and that wherever this occurred wider crossing was common.

Mr. MARTINDALE called attention to the fact that, in the case of *Staphylea*, the stigma is ready for the pollen some time before it can receive it, and suggested that, therefore, perhaps the first flowers do not produce seed.

Dr. GRAY rejoined that it could seldom happen that the first flower of every branch on a shrub or tree, or on different trees of the neighborhood, all opened on the same day; so that even the earliest flower had a fair chance to be fertilized.

Mr. MEEHAN handed a specimen of *Orobus atro-purpureus* from the table, and remarked that it might aid in settling that question; as, so far as his recollection now served him, it was the first flower of the season and of the raceme, and only the first flowers that generally perfected seed.

*On Samarskite.*—JOSEPH WILLCOX made some additional statements in reference to samarskite, which, until recently, has been a very rare mineral. The first discovery of it in Mitchel County, North Carolina, occurred in the spring of 1873, in a mica mine; and during that and the succeeding year about 700 pounds of the mineral were found, since which time the mine has not been operated.